



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Air Resources Division

P.O. Box 25287

Denver, CO 80225



October 23, 2009

N3615 (2350)

Mr. Terry L. O'Clair, P.E.
Director, Division of Air Quality
North Dakota Department of Health
918 E. Divide Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501-1947

Dear Mr. O'Clair:

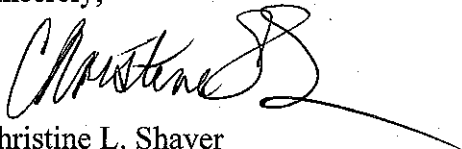
On August 26, 2009, we received North Dakota's draft implementation plan to address regional haze for review. We appreciate the opportunity to work closely with the State through the initial evaluation, development, and, now, subsequent review of this plan. Cooperative efforts such as these ensure that, together, we will continue to make progress toward the Clean Air Act's goal of natural visibility conditions at all of our most pristine National Parks and wilderness areas for future generations.

This letter acknowledges that the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and National Park Service (NPS) have received and conducted a substantive review of your revised proposed Regional Haze Rule implementation plan in fulfillment of your requirements under the federal regulations 40 CFR 51.308(i)(2). Please note, however, that only the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can make a final determination regarding the document's completeness and, therefore, ability to receive federal approval from EPA.

As outlined in a letter to each State dated August 1, 2006, our review focused on eight basic content areas. The content areas reflect priorities for the Federal Land Manager agencies, and we have enclosed comments associated with these priorities. Our major concerns with the draft plan include: 1) the separation of Theodore Roosevelt National Park units into separate Class I areas for assessing air quality impacts, 2) the exemption of the Unit #2 at the R.M. Heskett Station from Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) review, 3) concerns over BART determinations (i.e., our review concludes that additional sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emission reductions are achievable through the BART process), and 4) the methods used for determining reasonable progress at Class I areas affected by emissions from North Dakota sources. For further information regarding our comments, please contact Bruce Polkowsky of the NPS Air Resources Division at 303-987-6944, or Tim Allen of the FWS Branch of Air Quality at 303-914-3802.

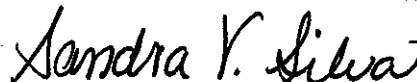
Again, we appreciate the opportunity to work closely with the State of North Dakota and compliment you on your hard work and dedication to significant improvement in our nation's air quality values and visibility.

Sincerely,



Christine L. Shaver
Chief, Air Resources Division
National Park Service

Sincerely,



Sandra V. Silva
Chief, Branch of Air Quality
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Enclosure

cc:

Tom Bachman
Division of Air Quality
North Dakota Department of Health
918 E. Divide Avenue
Bismark, North Dakota 58501-1947

Callie Videtich
U.S. EPA Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Mail Code: 8P-AR
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129